History
of
The Church of St. Uriel
the Archangel

Sea Girt, N. J.

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The Rt. Rev. Alfred Lothian Banyard
Bishop of New Jersey

The Rev. Canon Raymond H. Miller, Rector

Beginnings

The parish of St. Uriel the Archangel had its origin in the desire for year 'round Episcopal Church services on the part of a few church people living in the area. Since 1881 there were church services during the Summer at Trinity Church, Spring Lake. There also was Christ Church at the Village of Allaire, some five miles inland.

In the late 1890's clergy from the Associate Mission of the Diocese of New Jersey began to hold services in some of the homes in Manasquan. The Marcellus and Williams families sponsored these gatherings and at one time services were held in an upper room over a store on the Southeast corner of Main and South Streets, Manasquan. The late Rev. Thomas Conover, founder of St. Bernard's School at Gladstone, New Jersey, was one of the priests who administered here in these early days.

The official journal of the Diocese of New Jersey for 1900 refers to the Mission at Manasquan. There is an altar cross, a pair of candlesticks and a missal stand at St. Uriel's which bear the inscription of "The Manasquan Mission."

Soon services were held at the Oglesby home in Sea Girt. Mr. Oglesby was a New Orleans banker. Sandown was the Summer home and the family came and went by special train every year. Mrs. Oglesby rode on horseback to Allaire for services on Sunday. The 1901 Journal of the Diocese reports that "at Sea Girt, a new station, services have been held for four months. There were five baptisms at the first service." It is thought that the first services at Sea Girt were conducted by the Rev. Robert Benton of Pennsylvania. The Rev. Charles Fiske, who became Bishop of Central New York and was at the Associate Mission in Trenton when a deacon, held some services also. Among those present at the first services in Mrs. Oglesby's parlor were Mrs. Marcellus and Mr. Pearce of Manasquan, Mrs. S. R. Knight, Mrs. T. H. Bennett, Mrs. R. W. Smith and Mrs. Milton Voorhees of Spring Lake.

The Rt. Rev. John Scarborough, Bishop of the Diocese at this period was entertained by Mrs. Oglesby when he was making his visitation to Allaire. While they were driving from Sea Girt to Allaire the Bishop suggested to Mrs. Oglesby that she undertake to establish a year 'round church in Sea Girt. It must have looked like a great enterprise to all who heard of it. There were indeed very few houses in town at that time. Mrs. Oglesby enlisted the help of Mr. Charles E. Van Pelt of Philadelphia and together they wrote letters and called upon their friends to assist in this good work. Her account book has been preserved and in it one can trace the gradual accomplishment of founding the church. Mrs. Oglesby acknowledged every gift by letter written in her own hand.

In 1901 The Land Company of Sea Girt deeded two lots at the corner of Philadelphia Boulevard and Third Avenue for a church. Mr. C. S. Hinchman was president of this company. Mr. Hinchman was a member of the Society of Friends of Philadelphia. Although a Quaker, he was a good friend of the Church. He was a personal friend and patient of Dr. Knight and lived in a house at the foot of Philadelphia Boulevard.

The cornerstone reads 1902, but Mrs. Oglesby's records show that it was laid on April 6th, 1903. It is thought that a severe Winter delayed the cornerstone laying until the following Spring. The following are listed as contents of the cornerstone:

"The Churchman," New York, April 4th, 1903
"The Church Standard" March 21, 1903
"New York Herald Tribune," April 6th, 1903
Twenty-five cent coin
Five cent coin
One penny coin.

The name of the church has attracted much attention. A unique name was desired and Mrs. Oglesby's interest in the angels led to the dedication of St. Uriel the Archangel. There is a tradition that he is guardian of wind and wave. The Biblical references to St. Uriel are in the Second Book of Esdras.

The church people of Manasquan and Sea Girt joined forces in the new parish. Year 'round church people in Spring Lake were active workers, too. One reads the names of Bennett, Knight, Height and Voorhees. Among Summer members of the parish were Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Lewis Mumma.

A new church costing $8,000 was completed and used for the first time on Easter Day, 1903. There was a debt of $5,000 on the building, but Mrs. Oglesby personally assured the payment of the entire cost of the building.

In April, 1904 the Guild of the Church met to consider the matter of the Rev. Robert M. Beach becoming priest in charge of St. Uriel's Church. Up to this time Mr. Beach was officiating at services but was not the regular rector. His salary was to be $600 a year. St. Uriel's Church was still a mission. The Guild carried the responsibility of the Church.

The Rev. Robert M. Beach and the other supply priests did not stay in Sea Girt but came just for services. It is interesting to note that in some of the minutes of the Guild there was a discussion as to who would entertain the priest for the coming Sundays.

Mr. Hinchman gave a house on the Ireton property to the church. Mr. Ireton was one of the first residents in Sea Girt and drove a cab. This building was located on Brooklyn Boulevard and was moved to a lot North of the church on Third Avenue. It was referred to as "the cottage" and was used as the first Parish House. The cottage was the scene of a luncheon served by the Guild for Bishop Matthews, the Rector and the Vestry on the occasion of an Episcopal visitation. For many years it was used as a residence for the sexton. In 1939 this building was moved to the corner of Sixth Avenue and Philadelphia Boulevard, where it still stands. It was moved to make room for the new Parish House.

In 1906 a plot of ground on Philadelphia Boulevard, East of the church, was purchased for $250 for a rectory. A building fund for the rectory was started at that time and Mrs. Oglesby took the lead in raising the funds just as she had for the church. Mr. Charles Mott was the builder.

The church was consecrated on July 25th, 1907. The last payment on the church was made December 9th, 1906. The following letter, which Mrs. Oglesby wrote to Bishop Scarborough, explains why the consecration was not held until later:

Sandown, 2nd Sunday in Advent.

Dec. 9th, 1906.

My dear Bishop:

The last payment on the Church of St. Uriel was placed in the offertory at the early celebration this morning. My work and that of Mr. Charles E. Van Pelt is finished—a loving offering to God and to your Diocese. I want you and Mrs.

Margaret Lening Oglesby

Scarborough to be the very first to rejoice with us. If you think well of the time for consecration I wish it to be about the middle of July. No one wants to come to the country in the Winter. We might strike a snowstorm or very cold winds and as long as it seems advisable to defer, may we defer it until the Summer season is in full swing and many will be domiciled here who have contributed to our work. In making your appointments then, will you reserve about the middle of July for us. I would like with your permission to ask Bishop Coleman to be present and any priest who administered to us. Now we will begin to work for a salary and look to you to send us one whom you think will fill our need in due time. We are the grateful child of the mission but hope with your sanction at no very distant day to be able to walk alone. I am

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Lening Oglesby.

Independence

In 1907 St. Uriel's Church left the Associate Mission. The Rev. Howard C. Ackerman was appointed its priest in charge. It had become self-supporting and was no longer a charge on the Diocese.

On Christmas Eve of 1907 the first Midnight Service was held. Twenty people made their communion. Each Christmas Eve since there has been a Midnight Service. It was for some years customary for the parishioners living in Belmar and Spring Lake, to charter a trolley car which picked them up at their respective corners, left them off at the church door and returned for them after the service. It is said that the car tracks were laid on Third Avenue instead of Fifth Avenue because of the location of the Church. When Richard Crooks, the opera singer. was a resident of Sea Girt in the late 1930's he sang at the Midnight Service.

The Rectory was completed in 1915 and occupied for the first time by the Rev. Walter A. Gardner. Rooms in the Rectory were furnished by different families in the parish. Before the rectory was built members of the congregation tied their horses to the trees and hitching posts on the property. One of the spruce trees in front of the rectory was named for Margaret Lening Oglesby.

Father Mitchell was the incumbent during the First World War, and he was instrumental in adding many persons to the Church. such as Mrs. Daniel Hills, who was confirmed in his day. He was also the first priest to raise a family in the rectory. Several of his children were born there. He endured the many discomforts of trying to raise a family on a small stipend, in war time, and during several severe Winters. He had no automobile and did most of his pastoral work on foot or on bicycle. He used to go to Spring Lake on week days in Lent and celebrate the Holy Communion at the home of Dr. Knight and other parishioners. He was the first priest in the parish to use eucharistic vestments. He trained a number of boys as acolytes, including the late James Weeks, several brothers by the name of Smythe from Belmar, Edward Voorhees and S. R. Knight. In his day the organist was a Miss Ingersoll of Belmar. She performed on the melodeon presently in the choir gallery and which was then placed in the nave of the church against a wall which used to shut off the space now used for the Lady Chapel. The melodeon had a row of imitation brass pipes on top. Miss Ingersoll occasionally fainted while playing, and had to be carried out. Sometimes the rector came out of the sanctuary and played the organ.

The sanctuary was somewhat differently arranged in those days, and was limited to the space now directly before the High Altar, since the Lady Chapel was a Sunday School room and the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament was the sacristy. The altar steps were continuous across the breadth of the sanctuary and the entire area was covered with red carpet. The altar was the one presently in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. There was a huge corona suspended from the ceiling of the sanctuary. This was a kind of crown of glory electrified and had a large brass orb topped by a cross hanging in the center of the crown. This was greatly admired by some and its removal in the subsequent rectorship was the subject of controversy. The entire interior of the church was stained yellow pine. Combination gas and electric lighting fixtures were attached to the side walls, where are now the stations of the cross.

During the rectorship of Father Mitchell, there was considerable agitation concerning the mov-

The Rev. Henry Mitchell

ing of the location of the all-year parish church from Sea Girt to Spring Lake. Most Spring Lake parishioners, naturally, wanted this and they cogently argued that the support of the parish came largely from Spring Lake people. The rector favored the plan. Quite naturally, Mrs. Oglesby was opposed to the plan and Dr. Reeves, then trustee for Holy Trinity Church also was opposed and in the end, the opposition of Mrs. Oglesby and of Dr. Reeves prevailed. Thus two persons who had never been able to cooperate were united in their opposition to this plan, though, of course, for quite divergent reasons. However, the plan progressed to the point in which a man of substance in Philadelphia had agreed to purchase the land on the Northeast corner of Third Avenue and Passaic Avenue, where in those days a large livery stable was built. The present Holy Trinity Church was to have been moved to that site. This would have been the parish church and St. Uriel's would have become a Summer chapel.

During the interim between Father Mitchell and Father Lascelles, the church children in Spring Lake were instructed by Deaconess Sabine, also referred to as Sister Bertha, who had been a missionary in Alaska and who lived with her sister, Mrs. Knorr, in the Voorhees building.

Spring Lake parishioners in those days, First World War and shortly after, included Mrs. Ida Kindelan and her mother Mrs. Simonson; Mrs. Voorhees and son Edward; Sister Bertha and Mrs. Knorr; Mrs. Robert W. Smith, T. H. Bennett and family; George M. Height and his three daughters; Mrs. Hills and James Weeks; L. W. Paul and family; Mr. William Philbrick; Mrs. Arpe; Dr. Knight and family; Miss Mary Galbrath and Mrs. Galbrath, who was the mother of Mrs. Cross; Miss Josephine Calhoun; the two Miss Clarksons and their mother.

The Lascelles Era

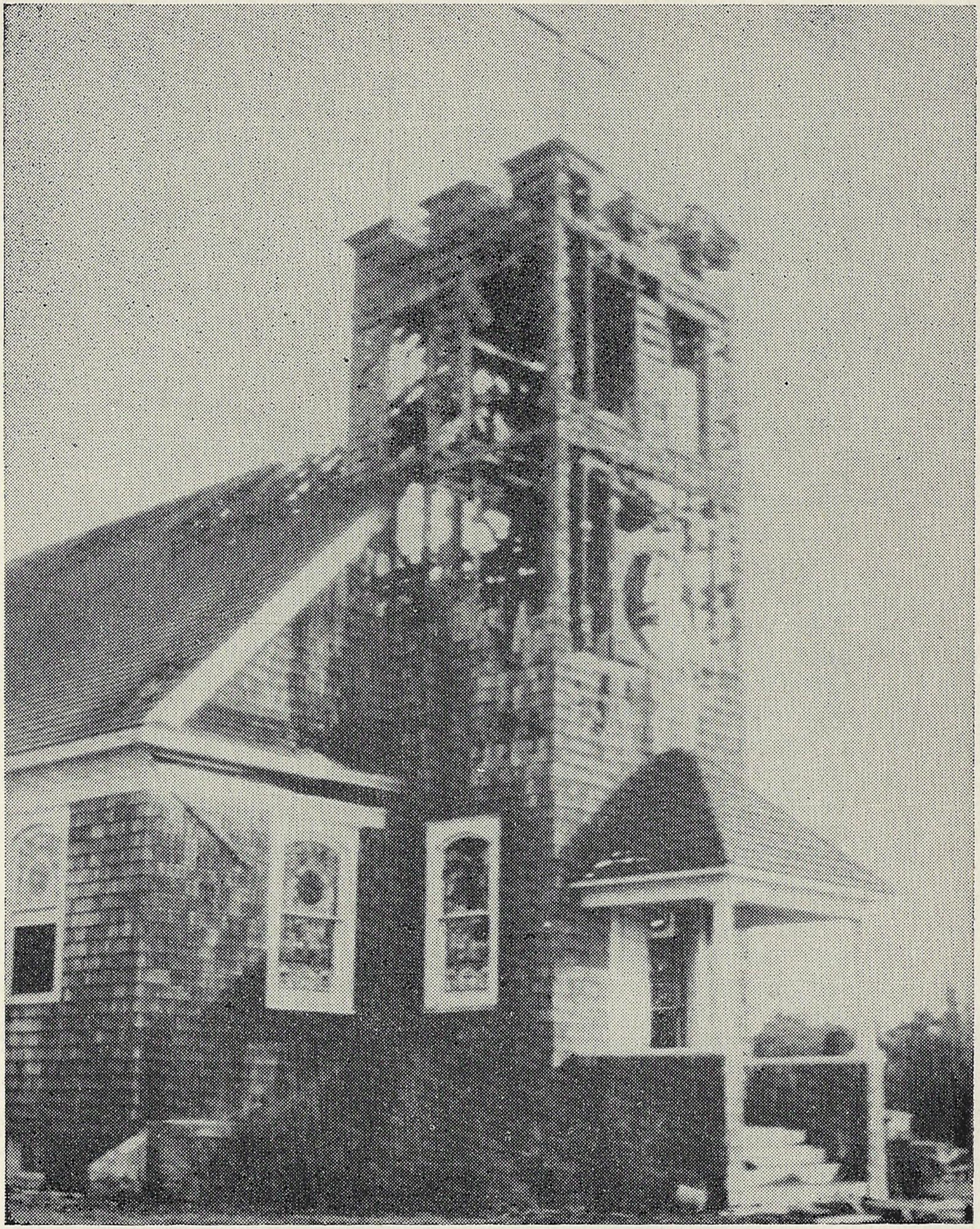
In 1920 the Parish was able to support a rector without missionary help. There was no mortgage or lien against the church so application for admission to the Convention was made. The Parish was accepted into union with the Convention. It was incorporated as Rector, Wardens and Vestry of the Church of St. Uriel, Sea Girt, New Jersey.

Father Lascelles was the first priest to be called as rector of the Church of St. Uriel after it had become a parish and was no longer a mission. Father Lascelles, M. A. Oxon, came to St. Uriel's from the missionary district of Wyoming. He had previously been rector of a parish in Brighton, England.

About this time Mr. and Mrs. James Barber became all-year residents of Sea Girt, and their work for the ensuing decade was of tremendous assistance to the parish. Also about this time Mrs. Caroline Van Wagenen established her permanent residence in Spring Lake and she became a devout member and benefactor of the parish. Among other benefactions, she gave one of the baptistry windows, one of the Stations and a sanctuary lamp.

For several years, Father Lascelles went out to Christ Church, Allaire and read Evening Prayer on Sunday afternoons. The taking over of the Allaire property by the Brisbane interests and its subsequent loan to the Boy Scouts terminated this work.

It is interesting to note that the first report of the Rector to the parish was made at the Annual Parish Meeing held November 28th, 1921. The Rector reported 55 certain pledges amounting to about $1,710.80 and five uncertain pledges.



Church Tower Ruined by Fire

On Friday March 10th, 1922 the church was partially destroyed by fire caused by a short circuit in the wiring of an "echo" organ being installed in the "Norman" tower then at the West end of the church. The large wooden cross now on the exterior West wall of the Church was originally affixed to the top of this tower and when the fire partially destroyed the tower, the cross remained standing. John Hagen, local seer and sage of that time, declared this to be a miracle. After this fire, the west end was extended and the present gallery built, and the console of the organ moved from what is now the Lady Chapel to the gallery. When the organ was dedicated, Frederick Rock, then organist of the Church of The Transfiguration New York, gave a recital and Miss May Wells, now living in Manasquan, sang.

There have been four preaching missions in St. Uriel's. The first was given by Father Granville Williams, later Superior of the S.S.J.E. This mission took place around 1922. Father Joseph of the Order of St. Frances conducted the second mission in the parish around 1927 or 1928.

On April 9th, 1925 there was another small fire in the church. From the report, evidently, a candle had fallen off the altar after the morning service. The damage amounted to less than $800 although several articles which had been given to the church were destroyed.

During Father Lascelles term the Holy Eucharist was celebrated as the chief service of the day. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel was provided and also the Shrine of Our Lady. Father Lascelles instituted the service of Solemn Evensong and Benediction each Sunday afternoon after he gave up the Allaire work.

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in November, 1925, Father Lascelles called to the attention of the parish the fact that in April the parish would celebrate its 25th Anniversary. He felt there should be a suitable celebration and suggested the dedication of a new Parish House. He was, at that time, with the consent of the Vestry, starting a fund for that purpose. The cornerstone of the Parish House was laid October 29th, 1926, by Bishop Knight. The building was completed at a cost of about $9,000, during the first months of 1927. The building comprised the kitchen, hall and cloakrooms of the present Parish House. The kitchen was about the size of one of the present cloakrooms. In one corner of the building there was a coal stove for heating which did not prove very adequate in Winter weather.

Too much credit cannot be given to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. James Barber. They, themselves, personally cooked and served a series of Thursday night suppers during one Winter for the raising of funds—beef-steak and kidney pie and beef-steak and Yorkshire pudding were their specialties. They also organized for several Summers a fair which was held in Spring Lake on the land across from the Monmouth Hotel now occupied by the home of Dr. Harold M. McGreevey. It was through the devotion of Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Oglesby, Mrs. Van Wagenen that Father Lascelles was able to have a celebration daily in the chapel, which he built in the rectory. This was his habit over a period of many years. After the first Parish House was built the Barbers continued their efforts toward paying off the indebtedness, but the final remaining debt was paid by the late Frederick L. Duggan Sr. before his death around 1928. The decrepitude of Father Lascelles' automobile was proverbial and on one occasion, when he drove the acolytes to All Saint's Church, Orange, for a festival, his car broke an axel on the way home and all were obliged to spend the night at the Cross Keys Inn in Rahway.

The Rev. Harold Lascelles

The organist during most of Father Lascelles' time was Mrs. Voget of Belmar, who was led by her work into being confirmed. The choir consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Hills. Mr. Hills was confirmed during the Lascelles period. The last family to drive to church in a horse-drawn carriage was William LaFetra and wife and son.

The first construction work, or alteration undertaken by Father Lascelles, was taking down the partition between the present chapels and the main sanctuary and the building of the present sacristy. At the same time the altar rails were moved out to their present position from the foot of the altar steps where they were previously. Also about 1927, the present high altar was built, the original design was made by Father Lascelles. It was altered by Father Snow. About 1922 the rood-beam was erected and the calvary placed thereon.

During Father Lascelles' vacations services were frequently taken by Father Gorgas, who was the son of General Gorgas. In the interim between Father Lascelles and Father Snow, the services were in charge of the Rev. Landon H. Rice, a retired priest of the Diocese of Newark, then a resident in Belmar. It is also interesting to note that Father Lascelles was most faithful in his ministration to Miss Miles, who then as an invalid, lived in Spring Lake in the Summer.

Among the parishioners of the Lascelles period were a family of the name of Burdge, the father was a faithful church goer for years and his several sons and daughters were raised in the church; also Mr. and Mrs. Butler (sheep raisers from Tasmania) and their daughter Marjorie who later became Mrs. Regn. Also the Stokes family moved to Sea Girt at about the same time as did Father Lascelles.

Mrs. Oglesby grew portly as years advanced. It was very hard for her to kneel. She used to tell that she had to pick up a pin on the floor and while there on her knees she said her prayers. One time, when a Watch of Prayer was being made in the church, she insisted on taking her hour. As she could not kneel, she stood in the aisle in front of the altar with her hand on the first pew.

Mrs. Oglesby made her first Confession (sacramental) at the age of 70 at St. Mary's Convent, Peekskill, N. Y. She then became Associate of the Sisters of St. Mary and faithfully kept the rule, going to the Retreats even though she found the beds in the school too small for her. "They are children's beds," she said.

Her hospitality was generous and cordial, especially with any one connected with the Church. The Religious, such as Father Williams, S.S.J.E. and Father Dale S.S.J.E. especially enjoyed visits to Sandown. Father Joseph, O.S.F. also came sometimes.

Mrs. Oglesby always kept her pew in St. Marks, Philadelphia where she had been married on Ascension Day. She always observed that Feast. Mr. Joseph Oglesby, Sr. died many years before she passed away, yet she desired to live for the fiftieth anniversary. She was granted that wish and was buried in her wedding gown. She died on April 9, 1929. Funeral services were held in St. Mark's Church.

The Rev. Frederick F. Snow

Later Rectors

Father Lascelles continued as rector until August 1, 1929 and in October, 1929 the Rev. Frederick F. Snow became rector. Father Snow's health forced him to resign on September 4, 1932 after he had spent a number of months in the hospital.

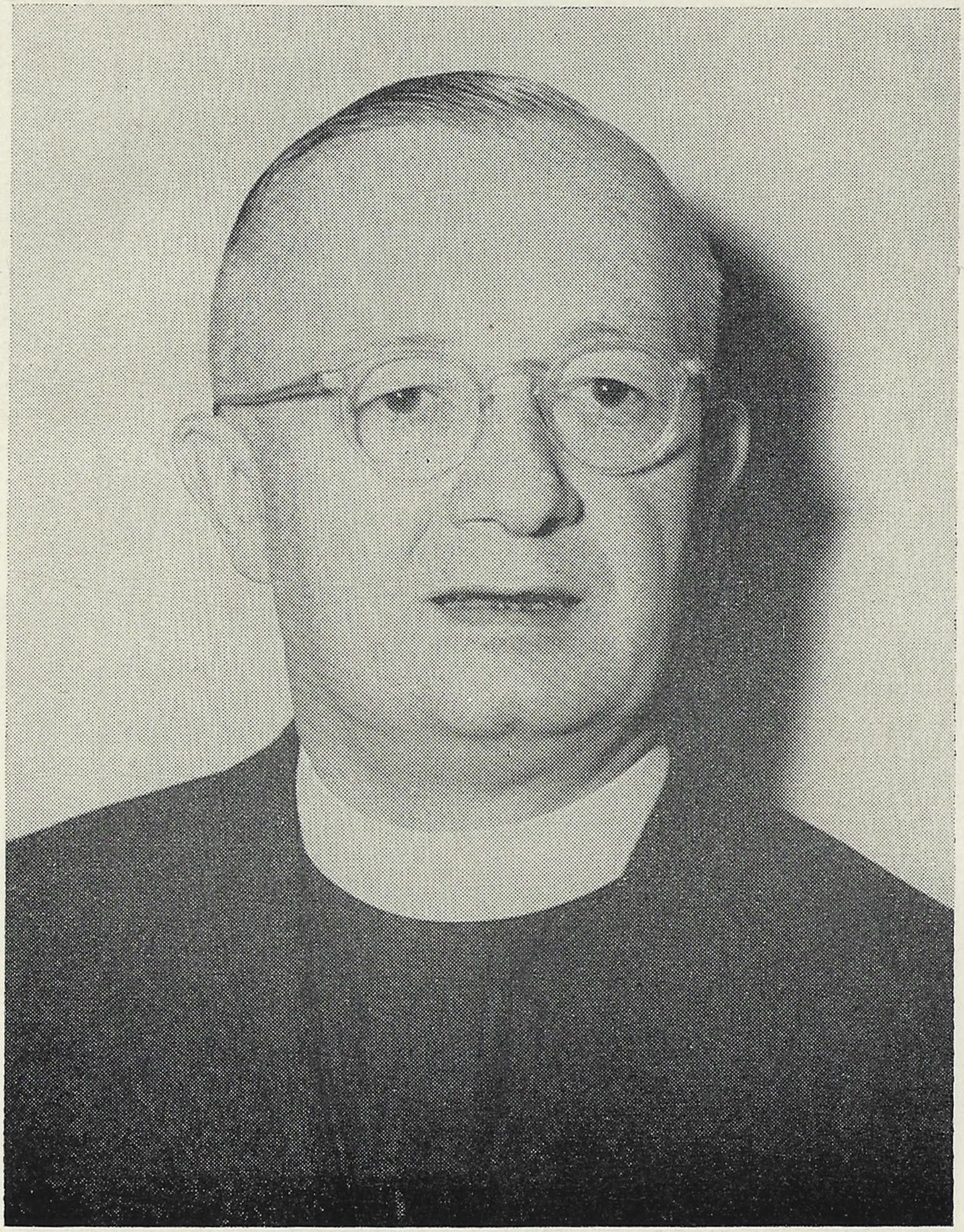
The next rector was the Rev. Harry Pearson, who resigned in October, 1935. Father Pearson manifested a great deal of interest in the young people by having among other activities a rifle club and dances on the upper floor of the Borough Beach pavilion.

The Rev. T. Jerome Hayden was called to the Parish in November 1935. During Lent of Father Hayden's first year as rector there was a guest preacher at each mid-week service. At one of these services the Rev. Wallace J. Gardner was the speaker. Just before he arrived in Sea Girt, Father Hayden received word that Dr. Gardner had been elected Bishop Coadjutor of New Jersey. Dr. Gardner was not aware of this until he arrived in town. This incident made a special bond between the Bishop and St. Uriel's parish.

On June 18th, 1938, Father Hayden was married to Miss Ethel T. Scott of Providence, R. I. The following year a daughter, Hilary Ann, was born to them.

Under the terms of the will of Miss Susan Miles the Church in 1939, became recipient of $10,000. The Vestry realized the necessity of a larger Parish House so the money was used for that purpose. The building was dedicated by Bishop Gardner on April 4th, 1940. Also at this time oil heat was installed in the rectory and the church.

Twice while Father Hayden was rector, the



The Rev. T. Jerome Hayden Jr.

Vestry gave a harvest supper to all parishioners. One was held in Borough Hall and the second was held in the new Parish House.

Father Hayden was rector of the church for nearly six years and then resigned to become rector of Christ Church, Elizabeth, N. J.

The Rev. Raymond H. Miller accepted a call to the Parish in September 1941. The service of Institution was held November 16th, 1941. Bishop Gardner conducted it.

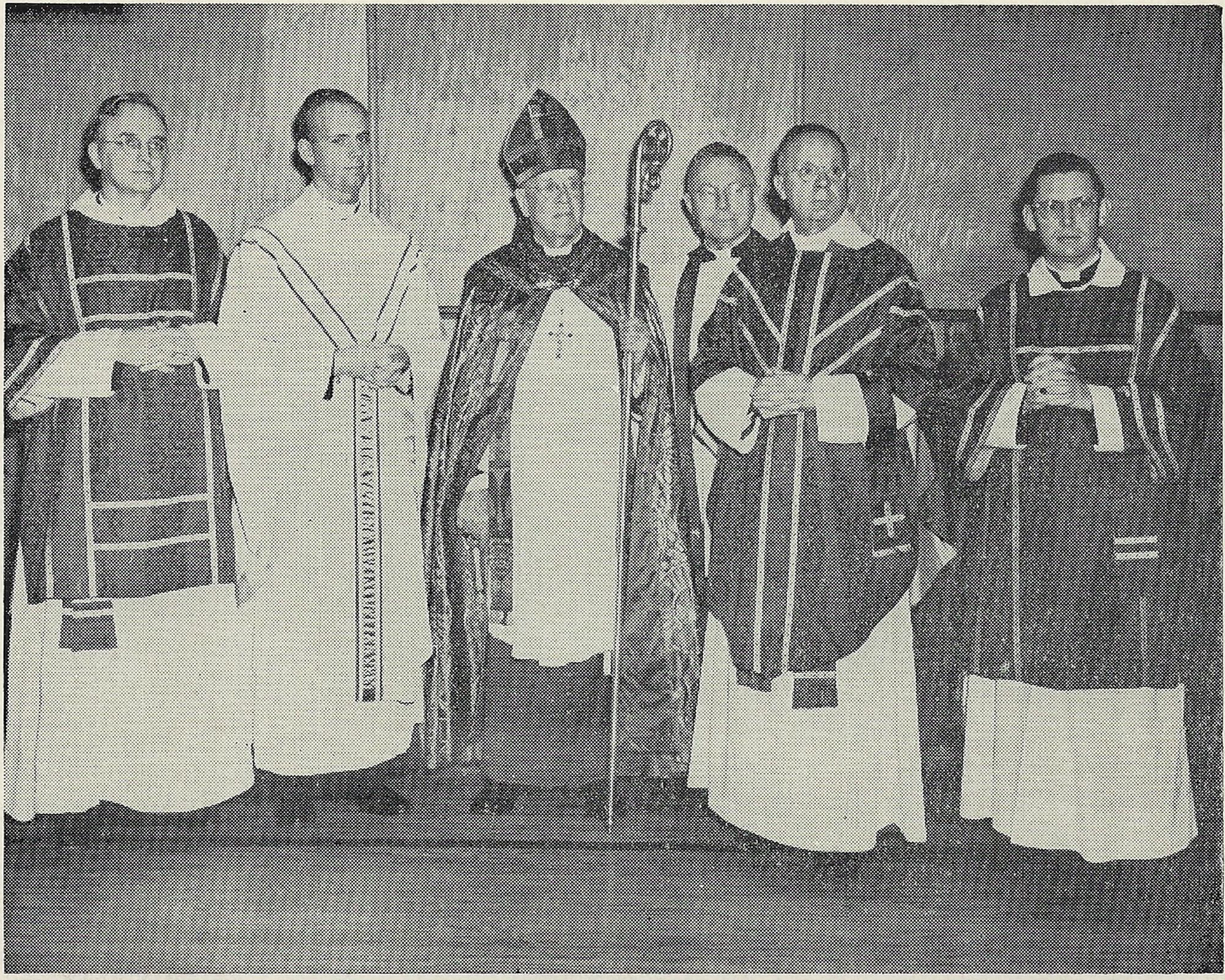
During the time that Father Miller has been Rector many new residents have moved into this area. A new organ, which was badly needed, was installed. This was done at a cost of about $4,000 in 1944. Miss Margaret Daum gave a concert to help raise the money, but that was the only fund raising affair held. The rest of the money came from donations.

In 1946 the Rev. St. George M. Boyd of the Canadian Cowley Fathers conducted a mission on the Christian Faith and Life.

In 1948 four Gesso paintings of the Archangels were added in the reredos by the Knight, Marcellus, Stokes and Walker families. A short time after that, through the generosity of a Summer family, the inside of the church was redecorated. After that was completed the need for new lights was more apparent than ever. Mrs. L. H. Burnett gave these in memory of her husband, Mr. L. H. Burnett, a former vestryman.

In 1952 in order to complete the redecoration of the church, the Guild had new carpet laid. Along with these improvements in the parish fabric, has gone the steady increase in the support of the church program in the Diocese and the National Church.

In 1950 Father Miller was elected an Honorary



Fr. Garlick, Fr. English, Bishop Gardner, Dr. Hoag, Canon Miller, Fr. Denton

Canon by Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. This brought an honor to our church. Neighboring priests and lay people came for the service of Installation held by Bishop Gardner at St. Uriel's on April 20th.

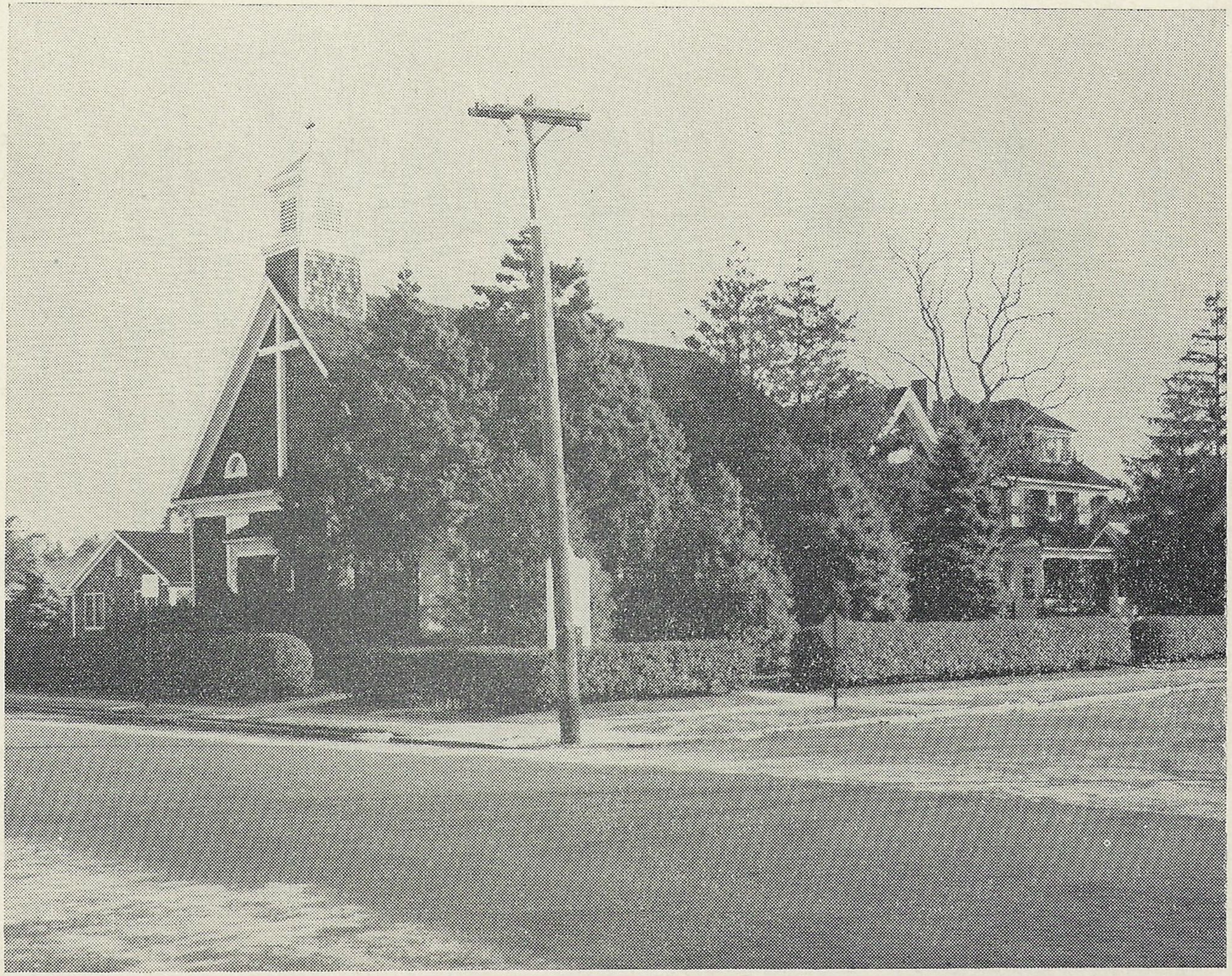
Since Father Miller has been Rector, the new Church School building has been built, adding six individual classrooms. The land at Third Avenue and Baltimore Boulevard was acquired by the parish.

On Easter Monday, April 6, 1953, the 50th Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone was observed by a Sung Eucharist at 9:30 A. M. and by a parish dinner in the evening. The Rt. Rev. Alfred L. Banyard, Suffragan Bishop, attended as the representative of the Diocese. Clergy and their wives attended from nearby parishes.

In this anniversary year the parish moved forward by the adding of a curate, The Rev. James Jones English, who came after graduation in May from the Philadelphia Divinity School. His ordination to the priesthood took place in the parish on the Feast of Christ the King. Bishop Gardner came for the Ordination. The Rector was celebrant at the Eucharist, with the Rev. Bernard M. Garlick of Freehold as deacon and the Rev. Herbert R. Denton of Mt. Holly as subdeacon and preacher. The Litany was read by the Rev. Victor Hoag.

Father English supervised a Vacation Bible School during the Summer. Two Sisters from the Community of St. John the Baptist and four of our parishioners did the teaching. The School was well attended and accomplished much. The Sisters have a rest house at Manasquan and attend services whenever they are in residence.

On July 10, 1952, Mr. William B. Van Leer, former vestryman, died leaving a substantial be-



Church, Rectory and Parish House of St. Uriel the Archangel quest to the church. The funds will not be available until sometime in the future.

In May of 1953 a Schulmerick electronic Carillon was installed. Two hymn tunes are played each night at seven o'clock. Great appreciation has come from residents of the community for this custom. At the time of Consecration at each celebration of the Holy Communion the bells are rung in the tower.

The Cowley Fathers provided St. Uriel's parish with its fourth mission from November 15th to 22nd, 1953. It was conducted by the Rev. Robert C. Smith S.S.J.E. on the theme "A Closer Walk With God."

Bishop Gardner made his visitation for confirmation on Passion Sunday, 1954. He was not well at the time. He died October 22nd, 1954, and was buried beside former diocesan bishops in the grounds of St. Mary's Church, Burlington.

Among the names of the Priests in Charge and Rectors of the Church of St. Uriel since its founding we find Robert M. Beach, Samuel H. Jobe, Frank P. Willes, Robert T. Walker, H. C. Ackerman, H. H. Gillies, H. P. Scratchley, E. P. Spencer, William Richmond, Charles C. Edmunds, Walter A. Gardner, Harry C. Mitchell, Charles B. Dubell, Harold Lascelles Granville M. Williams, Henry B. Gorgas, Frederick F. Snow, Harry Pearson, T. Jerome Hayden and Raymond H. Miller.

At the time of writing this history there are 595 communicants. The three Sunday services are well attended. Plans are under way to provide more space for the parents and children who now attend the 9:30 service each Sunday.

The Rt. Rev. Alfred L. Banyard was enthroned as the Bishop of the diocese on April 23rd, 1955.

The Rev. James J. English completed two years as curate and became chaplain of the choir school at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

The Rev. Allen S. Bolinger of Merchantville was ordained deacon on April 30th and began his work as curate on June 1st.

We have two men at the General Theological Seminary from this parish. Mr. Richard E. Barrett of Brielle is a middler, and Mr. S. R. Knight of Spring Lake is completing his junior year.

Surveys of the Wall Township area by Mr. Knight revealed a number of Episcopalian families and this led to our opening a Sunday School in the auditorium of the Wall Central School. Mr. Knight has conducted it and has been assisted by Mrs. Philip Hirlemann, who lives in the area. There are thirty enrolled in the school. In the days ahead this may develop into another parish for the diocese as there are indications of real and continued growth of population there. Land must be purchased and plans laid for meeting the opportunity.

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THE
CHURCH
OF
SAINT URIEL
THE
ARCHANGEL

St. Uriel's in Winter

The Guild of the Church of St. Uriel the Archangel

The Guild of the Church of St. Uriel held its first meeting June 11th, 1903. Among the first members were Mrs. Mary Marcellus, Mrs. W. V. Pearce, Mrs. Sarah Smyth and Miss Cora Smyth Mrs. F. McKnight and Mrs. M. Voorhees. All during the years the Guild has been a very important and necessary part of the Church. The object of the Guild, as stated in the Constitution, has been "to encourage one another in holiness of life and in the performance of any good work that tends to the prosperity and welfare of the Church." This was approved June 11th, 1903, and has been the objective through the years.

When the Guild was first organized there were 20 members. An attendance of 10 was a large meeting Today the Guild has a membership of well over 100 and the average attendance is 60.

A great deal of the financial responsibility of the Church fell on the Guild during the first years of its existence. In the minutes of the first meeting it is recorded that the Guild paid for the grading of the lawn, for hassocks for the pews, and $10 toward the rental of an organ. It has helped to pay the rector's salary, purchased coal for the Church and other buildings and paid for some of the repairs of the buildings.

Mrs. Oglesby gave and worked for funds for the Guild. She was a constant knitter of washcloths - a very fine yarn was used. She must have knitted a thousand. She carried her knitting bag everywhere she went.

Another industry was rag rugs. At the Guild the cloth was cut and sewed and wound into balls for the weaver. One room in Mrs. Oglesby's home was given over to keeping the rags and finished balls. She spent hours in that room sorting the work.

At the Guild meetings delicious refreshments were served as Mrs. Oglesby had a fine cook. She took great satisfaction in having Mrs. Theodore H. Bennett as president. Another satisfactory helper was Mrs. Emma Benedict of Manasquan, who served as treasurer.

The Guild was very dear to Mrs. Oglesby. When they went in a body to celebrate her birthday, it was a surprise to her. In telling about it she said: "It seemed like the Church Militant coming."

We find that one of its first activities was a fair held in the Summer of 1903. The ladies of the Guild made aprons and dressed dolls, which were sold during the year as well as at the bazaar.

One of the smaller projects was the purchase of $10 worth of soap from the Larkin Company to be sold by school children to assist the finances.

In August 1904 the Guild held a bazaar in the New Monmouth Hotel in Spring Lake at which time $293 was realized.

Some of the other means of raising money were musicals held at various homes, sale of Church calendars and sale of articles which different members made, such as embroidered center pieces, towels and table covers.

During the Summer of 1910 six members of the Guild gave entertainments of various kinds in their homes for the Rectory fund.

In more recent years the Guild has had or helped to have done many things to improve the bulildings. It had the walls and floor of the bathroom in the rectory covered with linoleum;

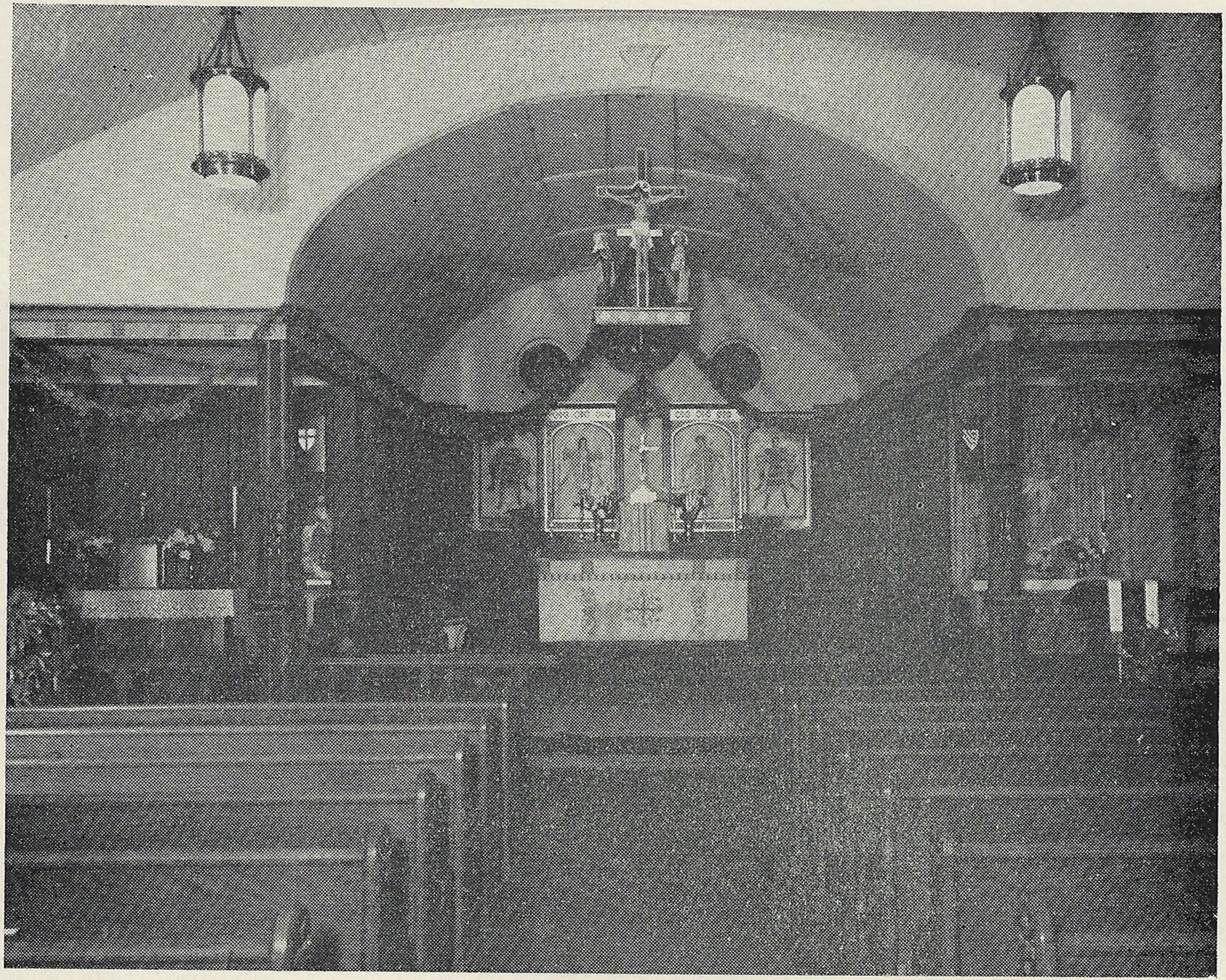
bought a new washer and electric stove for the rectory; helped raise money for the new organ in the church; equipped the Parish house kitchen; pledged and raised $2,000 to help pay for the new Sunday School building and furnish one room and purchased new carpet for the church. Each year the Guild makes a pledge to the Church when the Every Member Canvass is underway. In 1943 the pledge was increased to $300. In 1953 the pledge was increased to $1,000.

Before the Parish House was built the Guild held a Summer card party at either the Monmouth Hotel in Spring Lake or the Stockton Hotel in Sea Girt. The money raised at that affair was used to help a young man from the church who was attending college with hopes of becoming a priest.

St. Uriel's Guild has become well known for its fine suppers, luncheons and card parties. The bazaar and supper held in June and the Christmas sale and food sale held either in November or December have become a tradition.

For a number of years the Guild met in the homes of its members. When the new Parish House was built, the meetings were held in the Vestry room. The Guild has outgrown that room and now holds its meetings in the main part of the Parish House the first Friday afternoon of each month.

The following are the names of those who have served as president of the Guild: Mrs. Sarah S. Smyth, Mrs. Ruth R. Smith, Mrs. M. L. Oglesby, Mrs. Theodore Bennett, Mrs. F. C. Baird, Mrs. Bachman, Mrs. Lascelles, Mrs. James Bennett, Mrs. M. Voorhees, Miss Dorothy Stokes, Mrs. Ida Kindelan, Mrs. John Vogel, Miss Henrietta Keil, Mrs. Robert Lampa, Mrs. Louis Brady, Mrs. Elizabeth Bier, Mrs. Neil McManus and Mrs. Charles Benter.



The Altar and Interior

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild of the Church of St. Uriel first came into existence as a committee of the Guild. It was one of the first two committees appointed after the Guild of the church was formed. The other was a Choir Committee.

Mrs. M. L. Oglesby was appointed chairman at a meeting held in June, 1903. Her assistants were Miss Winifred Mumma, Miss Margaret Wynkoop, Mrs. Emma Farley, Mrs. W. E. Thomas, Mrs. Benedict, Mrs. M. Voorhees, Miss Waters and Miss Marcellus.

It was not until June, 1915, that a separate organization was formed. Miss Cora Smyth was the directress at that time.

For a few years during the 1930's the Altar Guild was not active and the care of the altar was taken over by Mrs. Alex Smith.

The Altar Guild has only one financial affair during the year. That is a tea which is held usually on Refreshment Sunday. The money raised is used to buy flowers, candles, wine, wafers, albs and surplices for the clergy.

Each month the Altar Guild has a corporate Communion service, which is followed by breakfast and business meeting.

Miss Helen Porter was directress for 20 years. Miss Sara Heyes and Miss Elizabeth R. Wheaton served during this same period. Mrs. Richard Watts is the present directress.

There are now 14 active members who prepare the sanctuary for week day and Sunday services. This means cleaning silver, arranging flowers for the altar, caring for and replacing candles, dusting the sanctuary and laying out the priest's vestments and replacing of linens.

During the past 18 years the Altar Guild has supplied many linens and frontals, thus keeping the altar spotless and beautiful.

St. Uriel's Church School

The first session of the Church School of the Church of St. Uriel was held March 16th. 1907, with seven pupils. At that time the school was under the direction of a committee from St. Uriel's Guild.

Before this Mrs. Oglesby held Sunday School in her own home. There are a number of persons still living who remember attending Sunday School there. Mrs. Oglesby taught in the Sunday School for many years. She loved a joke and was fond of telling of one little girl who woke her father in the night to recite; "I love the Holy Angels bright" as Mrs. Oglesby had taught her the words.

The services of the Church School were held in the Parish House, which at that time was the building known as "the cottage". When the new Parish House was completed in 1927, the Church School moved into that building.

The Church School has grown into a very active and important part of the Church. In 1935 there were less than 25 children in attendance and three teachers. Today the enrollment is more than 250 children, with 30 teachers, treasurer, secretary, assistant superintendent and superintendent.

Mrs. E. C. Stokes, Sr., was one of the first directors of the Church School. Mrs. Lucille Moore was superintendent for a number of years. She was followed by Jack Hyde, then Mrs. Lenore Thomas, Mr. John R. Ayres and Mr. William H. Egeln. Mr. Harry M. Reed is the present superintendent.

In 1949 the Church School had outgrown the present Parish House even though the downstairs of the building had been converted into classrooms, and the kitchen, the Rector's study, and the Vestry room were used. The project of a new building was started. This building progressed as the money was raised so it was paid for when it was completed. Six classrooms were added to the facilities of the Church School.

In the new building there are two rooms given in memory of parishioners. The families of Mary and William Harden and Pfc. Robert Berkhofer gave these rooms. St. Uriel's Guild gave the large room and the furniture also.

When the Church School was first started the Guild gave a Christmas party each year for the children, but now the school is self supporting and each year there are one or two affairs given for the pupils. In 1952 the pupils gave a Christmas Pageant, which was held in the Church and enjoyed by the parents as well as the pupils. For the last few years the children have had Hallowe'en parties in the Fall and picnics at the close of the year.

Vestry

The first record we have of the Vestry shows a meeting held August 27th, 1919, at the home of Dr. S. R. Knight in Spring Lake to form a Vestry.

Until this time there are references to a Board of Trustees or Advisory Board looking after the affairs of the Church.

Father Lascelles, the priest in charge, Dr. Knight and Mr. James Barber were present at the first meeting. In the minutes we find the statement: "Authority was given for the temporary addition of Mr. James Barber of Sea Girt to the Vestry pending the Parish Meeting in Advent."

On December 1st, 1919, the Parish meeting was held. Dr. Knight was elected Senior Warden and Mr. Barber Junior Warden. Seven Vestrymen were elected. They were Mr. W. W. Steiner, Mr. George Height, Mr. L. W. Paul, Mr. J. J. Powers, Jr., Dr. Mott Marcellus, Mr. Samuel Tull and Mr. W. B. Van Leer.

Mrs. M. L. Oglesby was elected treasurer and Mr. Van Leer, secretary.

Many problems of the Vestry at that time are similar to those of today—heating and repairing buildings, salaries, supplies and Every Member Canvass.

In December, 1922, a special Parish meeting was held and the Constitution was revised to permit reduction of the number of vestrymen from nine to six. The number was later restored to nine.

In 1936 the number of vestrymen was increased to 12.

Some of the men who served on the Vestry during the years are: Dr. S. R. Knight, Mr. James Barber, Mr. Frank Rudderow, Mr. Walter Pearson, Mr. E. C. Stokes, who served for 25 years, Mr. James Walker Mr. A. Clayton Clark, Mr. H. B. Thomas, Mr. H. S. Meyers, Mr. F. L. Duggan, Mr. Paul Cranmer, Dr. Louis Albright, Mr. Virgil Markle, Mr. J. R. Ayers, Mr. L. H. Burnett, Mr. George Seeber, Mr. Samuel A. Mateer, Mr. John L. Vogel and Mr. Roy A. Nellis.

It is interesting to note that there are three men who served as Vestrymen and each had a son who is either serving now or did serve at one time as vestrymen. They are Dr. S. R. Knight and son S. R. Knight; Mr. James Walker and son, Alexander and Mr. A. C. Clark Sr., and son, A. C. Clark Jr.

The present Wardens and Vestrymen are:

Mr. W. H. Egeln, Senior Warden; Mr. Harold T. Hall, Junior Warden; Mr. Charles E. Benter, Mr. Harry Braender, Mr. A. C. Clark, Mr. Richard Watts, Mr. Harry Reed, Dr. Thomas Madden, Mr. Frederick Lombard, Mr. S. R. Knight Mr. George Kirchgasner, Mr. John Dodd, Dr. Robert E. Rankin and Mr. A. E. Wallwork.

Acolytes

The first records about an Acolytes' organization are in the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held November 30th, 1926. Mrs. Grace Rudderow was Acolyte Mother. In this report it tells of an Acolyte meeting in Elizabeth, which the boys from St. Uriel's Church attended. It also tells how the boys raised the money for this trip.

In 1927 there were 21 boys enrolled as acolytes.

In 1932 the Acolytes formed a Guild known as St. Vincent's Guild. This was under the direction of John Patterson and his report to the Annual Parish Meeting says: "It was a very active group not only becauuse of their faithfulness as servers at the altar but because of other activities." These included beach parties, first aid instruction, marksmanship, basketball and tennis.

In 1937 St. Gabriel's Guild was formed. On March 16th of that year induction services were held in the Church. Bishop Gardner conducted the Service of Induction and the Rev. Frederick Fleming of Trinity Church New York City, preached the sermon and delivered the charge to the acolytes. Stanley Reed was president.

The Induction Service was preceded by a dinner for the men and boys of the Parish. This was held in Borough Hall and was put on by the ladies of the Guild. Just about the time the dinner was finished and it was time for all to go to the church we had a real downpour, which caused some delay in the service and a number of the boys were rain soaked.

The Acolytes have a fine basketball team now. They are very faithful in attendance at service.

Each Fall the boys are taken to a college football game or to a big league baseball game. Mrs. Lottie Groel has been the Acolyte Mother for many years, and has been assisted by Mrs. Brady.

Ushers Group

In 1950 the men of the Church met to form an Ushers Group. Dr. Thomas Madden was appointed the director of this group, now numbering seventy men.

Each month the ushers are appointed for all three Sunday services and for special services.

The men meet for suppers, and have an Advent corporate communion.

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Library

The library is a fast growing part of the church. In 1947 the library under the direction of Mrs. Richard Watts was started with a few books. Each year more books are added. Miss Charlotte Higley was the next librarian. Mr. Pierce Kenyon has succeeded her.

The Choir

Mr. George S. Dare has been the organist and choirmaster for a number of years. Most of the singers are volunteers, but a few leading voices are engaged to be present for the two late services. Mr. William Evans of Ocean Grove has the longest record of faithful and devoted service.

Mrs. Harold Hall and Mrs. Jessie Parsons were the leaders of a girls' choir that sang on Sundays at the 9:30 service.